SATSUKI YOSHINO

Handa-kun

CHAPTER 21

I'M A VERY NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
I HAVE NO PARTICULAR TALENTS OR SPECIAL SKILLS.
I ALSO FEEL NO NEED TO SEEK CONFLICT WITH OTHERS.
AREN'T MOST PEOPLE LIKE THAT?
THEY SPEND THEIR YOUTH WITH LIKE-MINDED FRIENDS...
...WITHOUT STANDING IN THE LIMELIGHT AT ALL.
BUT...
THERE YOU ARE, YUKICCHI!
WHERE WERE YOU GUYS?
...I KNOW A PERSON WHO GLITTERS BRILLIANTLY, SO FAR AWAY FROM NORMALCY.
THOUGH, I, TSUKASA KONOMICHI, AM NORMAL...
...AND HAD WISHED TO REMAIN SO, MY HEART HAS BEEN CAPTIVATED BY OUR SCHOOL'S KING...
THE HELL—? WE'RE ON THE SAME BULLET TRAIN AS THE GRAY-SCHOOL GUYS?
WHAT DO WE DO, ICHIMIYA-KUN?

...ASAHI ICHIMIYA.
NOTHING AT ALL.
WE'LL JUST ENJOY OUR CLASS TRIP.

GREAT IDEA AS ALWAYS, ICHIMIYA-KUN.
WE'LL THINK NOTHING OF THOSE GRAY-SCHOOLERS.
HE HAS A KEEN MIND AND IS VERY ATHLETIC.
PLUS, HE'S HAND-SOME.
"HAN-DA"?
HE'S FRIENDLY AND DECISIVE.
AN IDEAL LEADER.
NOT EVEN HANDA WOULD STAND A CHANCE AGAINST YOU, ICHIMIYA-KUN.
EVERYONE AT SCHOOL IS HIS FRIEND.
HE'S THE KING OF GRAY-SCHOOL.
KILLS BEARS AND SUCH.
THERE HAVE BEEN ALL SORTS OF RUMORS ABOUT HIM, LIKE THAT HE WON THE WORLD ABACUS TOURNAMENT.
YOU DON'T SAY...
I'D SURE LIKE TO MEET HIM.
OKAY
OVER THAT WAY.
MY GROUP?
WHERE'S MY GROUP?
GRAY UNIFORMS, GATHER OVER HERE.

WE'RE TAKING THE SAME TRIP AS THE WHITE SHIRTS. THIS SUCKS.
THEIR SCHOOL AND OURS GET ALONG LIKE CATS AND DOGS.
INCIDENTALLY, TO THEM, WE'RE KNOWN AS "GRAY-SCHOOL."
THEY'RE THE BOYS' SCHOOL IN THE NEXT TOWN, RIGHT?
OH, SURE. THAT'S REAL NICE OF YOU.
HERE. HAVE A CANDY.
NOW, NOW, IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING OUT OF SOME DELINQUENT MANGA'S GOING TO HAPPEN.
YEAH, THAT'S GENEROUS.
THANKS, REO-KUN!
ONE PIECE EACH, K?
PASS THE BAG AROUND.
IT'S MY TREAT!

THERE'S NOTHING HARDER TO JUDGE THAN THE "TAKE A CANDY AND PASS IT ALONG" SITUATION!
CANDY CANDY
(SOWA (FIDGET)
AM I ALLOWED TO HAVE ONE TOO?
WOULDN'T THEY GO BALLISTIC IF I DID TAKE ONE?
IS IT EVEN GOING TO COME AROUND TO ME...?
HERE, HANDA-KUN.
IT DID!!
WELL, SEEING THAT IT HAS COME TO ME...
...I GUESS I WILL...
(SWIP)
HE TOOK A CANDY!!
A CAN I?
FOR REAL!?
HE TOOK ONE!!
(ZAWA (MURMUR))
OH SHOOT!! WAS I NOT SUPPOSED TO TAKE ONE?

HE ATE IT!
FOR REAL!?
HE REALLY ATE IT!
WOW!
HE ATE IT!
OSORU (TWIST)
おそろ
OSORU
おそろ
CRAP! IF ONLY I'D BROUGHT CANDY TOO!
NAH, HE COULDN'T ACTUALLY BE DEAD...
HE'S... HE'S DEAD.
REO-KUN'S ALL SMILES...
SO IT WAS WRONG TO EAT IT AFTER ALL?
I ASSUMED HE WOULDN'T EAT ANY!
DAMN IT! I NEVER HEARD OF HIM EATING CANDY!
REO-KUN REALLY IS DEAD!!
HE SPIT IT OUT!
I GUESS CANDY'S JUST COMMONER FOOD.
HE SPIT IT OUT!
HE SPIT IT OUT!
HE SPIT IT OUT!
PE (SPIT)

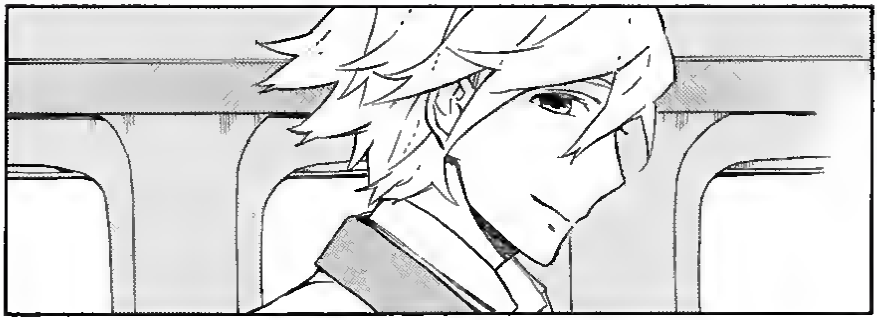
SHUU (FSSSH)
シュッ
DO WE HAVE ANYTHING BESIDES CANDY?
LIKE MACA-RONS?
MACARONS? ON A CLASS TRIP!?
CAAAAAN-DYYYYY!
WHAT'S WITH YOU PEO-PLE!?
UWAAAH!
GASP!
ALLOW ME TO RECOVER THE CANDY HE SPIT OUT!
ERASER
CANDY'S NOT DANDY!
IT'S CANDY SHOCK!
CANDY!!
ZAWA
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ZAWA
ZAWA
WHAT THE HECK?
WHITE SHIRTS?

WHAT'S GOING ON?
THEY'RE WHITE SHIRTS.
WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN OUR CAR?
HEY, YOU LOST OR SOME-THING?
YOU GUYS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO COME IN HERE.
NO, TSUKKUN, DON'T!
WE JUST WANT TO GET TO THE BATHROOM OVER THERE.
YEAH? WELL, THERE'S ONE BACK THE WAY YOU CAME.
I'LL THROW AWAY THE CANDY IN THE MEAN-TIME.
I'M NOT SURE HOW THOUGH
HEY, KIDS, WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?
COME ON, MAKE A U-TURN, DUMBASS.
WHAT, ARE YOU SCARED OF ME?
I CAN'T GET IT OFF..
NECHI (STICKY)
NECHI

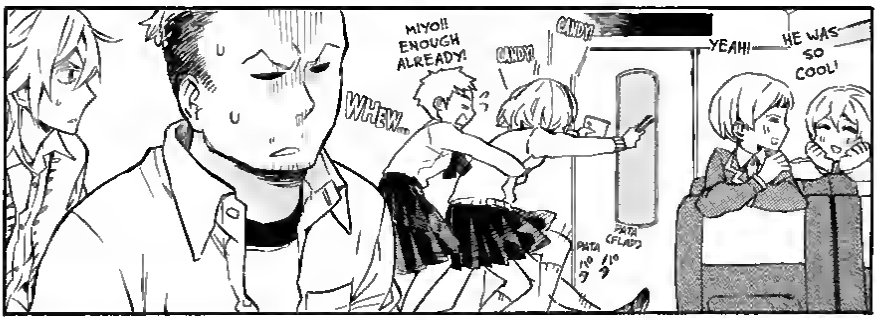
"BOSS"? WHAT DECADE ARE YOU FROM, AUNTIE PERM?
YOU THE BOSS OF THIS SCHOOL?
SHEESH, IT'S ALL STICKY.
COME BACK AS SOMEONE BORN AFTER THE COLD WAR, GORILLA!
DO I GOTTA USE SIMPLER WORDS TO GET THROUGH TO YOU, PIG?
KORO
CAN'T FIND THE WRAPPER IT CAME IN...
KORO (TWIDDLE)
WHERE TO THROW IT AWAY?
PETA (PLIP)
PI (FLIP)
OH!
FOUND IT!

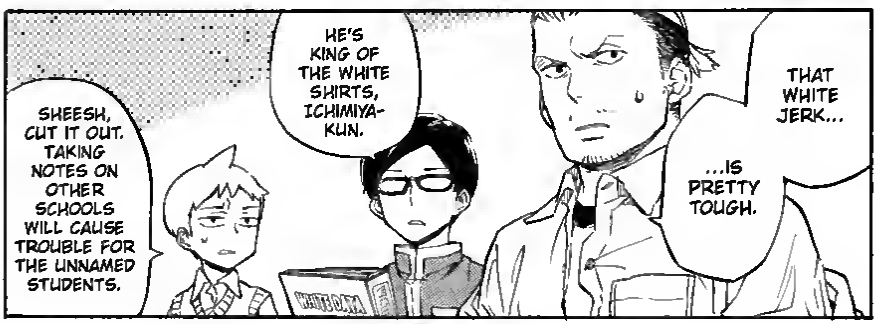
SA (ZIP)
WH-WHAT'S THIS... STICKY THING?
IT'S... CANDY, YEAH?
THE CANDY HANDA-KUN LICKED...
HEY.
AHH, WHAT A LOVELY SCENERY...
STOP IT, JOUMOTO.
LIKE THIS CAN-DY!?
DON (WHAM)
I WANT THAT CANDY!
YOU ASKING FOR A LICKING, PUNK!?
ICHIMIYA-KUN...

GRAY-SCHOOLERS, IT SEEMS LIKE WE'VE CAUSED A NUISANCE.
I'M VERY SORRY.
HIS PRINCELY FEEL IS SOME-THING ELSE ..
...FOR MY FRIEND'S RUDENESS.
WHAT A HOTTIE!
I, ICHIMIYA, WILL ATONE...
SO COOL!
HEY!
NOW, LET'S HEAD BACK.
YOU THE LEADER, HUH?
HE'S SO HANDSOME! I'M IN A JAM!
WEREN'T YOU GUYS CRUISING FOR A FIGHT!?

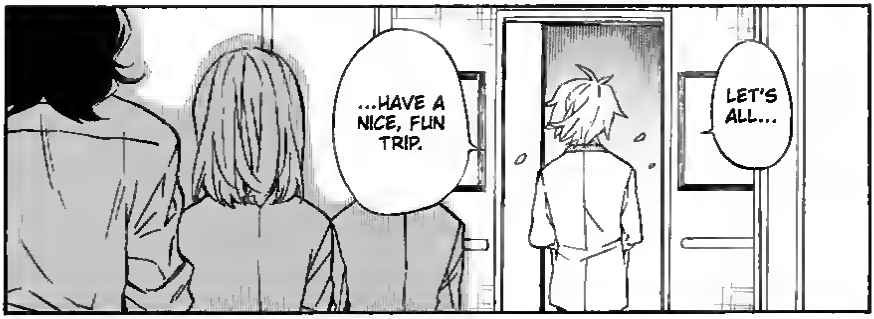


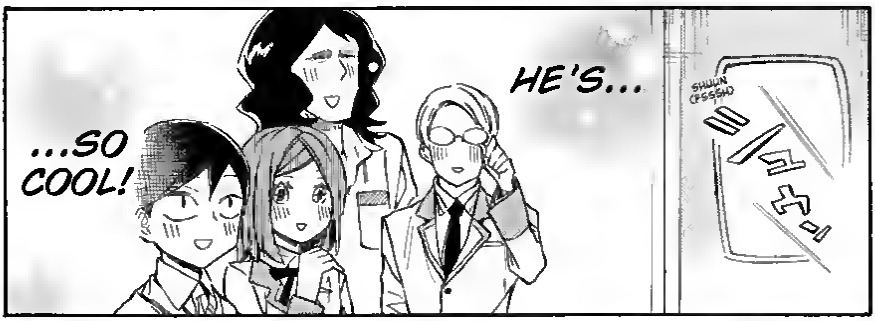
MY HAND'S ALL STICKY NOW...

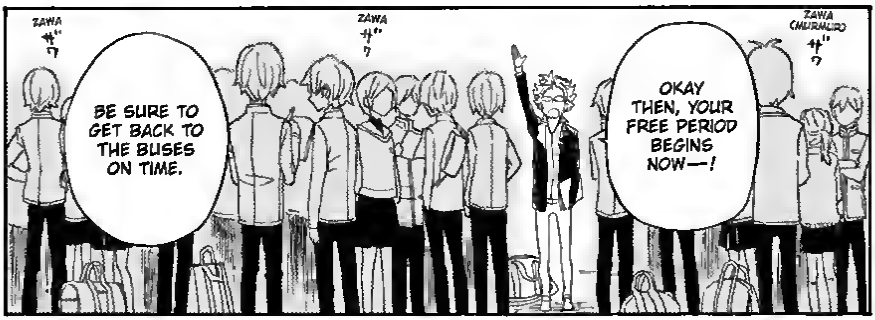

MIYO!! ENOUGH ALREADY!
WHEW...
CLICK!
CLICK!
YEAH!
HE WAS SO COOL!
PATA
PATA (FLAP)

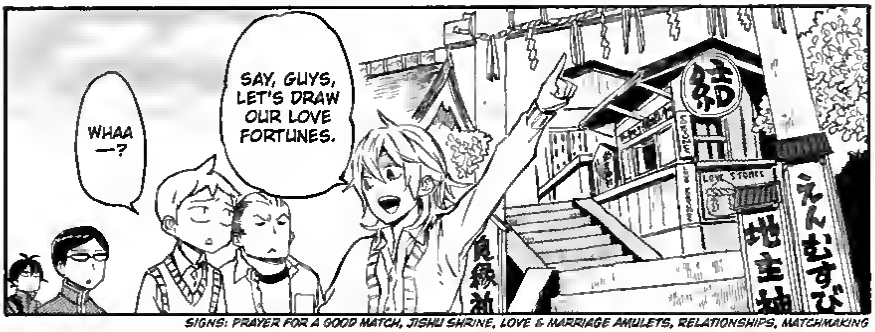

SHEESH, CUT IT OUT. TAKING NOTES ON OTHER SCHOOLS WILL CAUSE TROUBLE FOR THE UNNAMED STUDENTS.
HE'S KING OF THE WHITE SHIRTS, ICHIMIYA-KUN.
THAT WHITE JERK...
...IS PRETTY TOUGH.

GONE
AT THE RATE YOU WERE GOING, A FIGHT SEEMED INEVITABLE.
THAT'S HANDA-SAN FOR YOU.
HE DRIVES BACK THE ENEMY WITH-OUT EVEN OPENING HIS MOUTH.
HE WASN'T THAT BIG OF A DEAL, WAS HE?
YOU SAID WE WERE JUST GOING TO TAKE A QUICK LOOK.
MY HEART WAS IN MY THROAT.
THEY MUST'VE FELT SCARED TOO, INSIDE.
ICHIMIYA-KUN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
DON'T CALL ME AN IDIOT!
IF ICHIMIYA-KUN HADN'T BEEN THERE, HANDA WOULD'VE KILLED YOU.
YOU SURE ARE AN IDIOT, JOUMOTO.
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS STICK WITH ME.
DON'T GO LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.

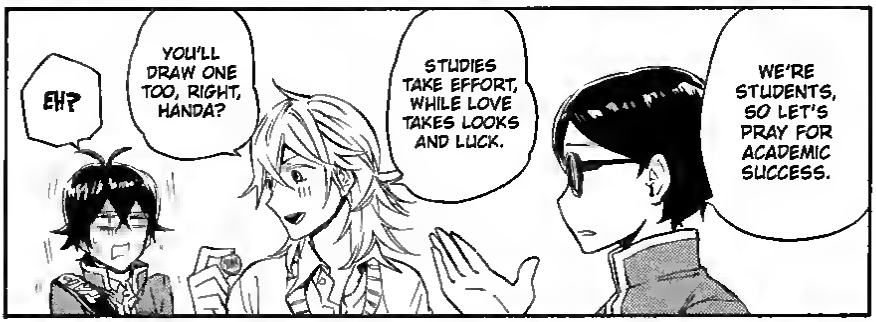

LET'S ALL...
...HAVE A NICE, FUN TRIP.


HE'S...
...SO COOL!
SHUUN (FSSSH)


ZAWA
ZAWA
ZAWA (MURAKUMO)
BE SURE TO GET BACK TO THE BUSES ON TIME.
OKAY THEN, YOUR FREE PERIOD BEGINS NOW—!



SIGNS: PRAYER FOR A GOOD MATCH, JISHU SHRINE, LOVE & MARRIAGE AMULETS, RELATIONSHIPS, MATCHMAKING


EH?
YOU'LL DRAW ONE TOO, RIGHT, HANDA?
STUDIES TAKE EFFORT, WHILE LOVE TAKES LOOKS AND LUCK.
WE'RE STUDENTS, SO LET'S PRAY FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS.

SEEING YOU SO HYPED UP IS EXTREMELY DEPRESSING.
COME ON, IT'S EASY!
恋するおみくじ
ARE WE GAM-BLERS?
USING OUR POCKET CHANGE ON A TEST OF LUCK.

SIGN: LOVE FORTUNES

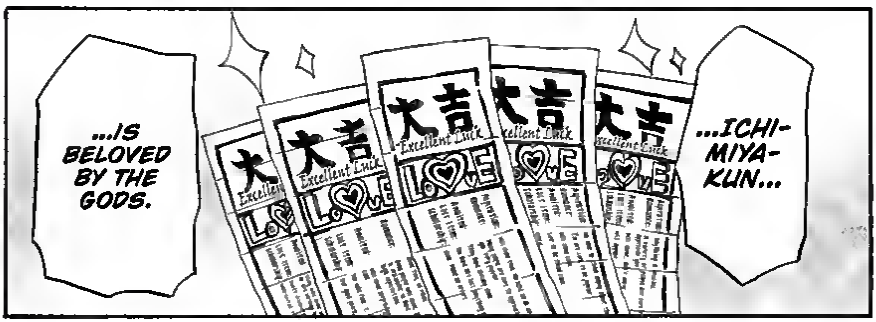
OKAY, LET'S OPEN ON THE COUNT OF THREE!
YOU'RE MISSING THE POINT OF RALLYING CRIES.
わっくわく!
WAKKU (EXCITED)
WAKUWAKU
YEAH
HOWEVER, IF I'M TO MAKE FRIENDS ON THIS TRIP, I NEED TO MEET THEM HALFWAY.

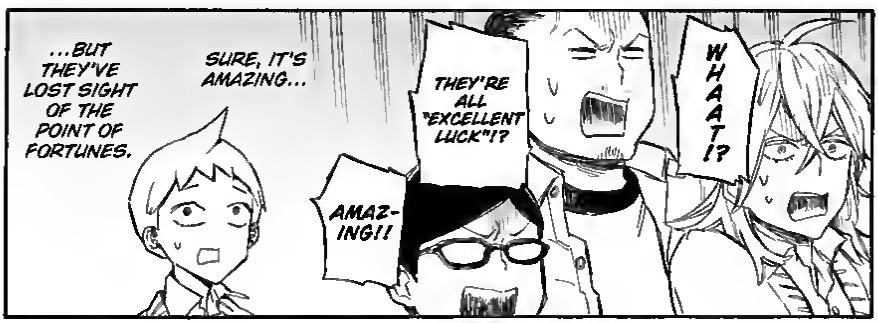
"IF YOU'RE FICKLE AND UNABLE TO LIMIT YOURSELF TO ONE PERSON, TROUBLE IS LIKELY TO OCCUR."
PRETTY DEAD-ON.
UWAH! IT'S "UNCERTAIN LUCK."
Fortune
I GOT THAT TOO.
THE SAME AS YUKI? IS THIS THING REALLY RIGHT?
JUST LIKE USUAL.
I GOT "GOOD LUCK."
EH?
AND YOU, HANDA-KUN?
I HAVE "MEDIUM LUCK."
I'LL ENDEAVOR AT MY STUDIES TOO.
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO SHOW THIS!!
IT COULD BE A HARD-BOILED "TERRIBLE LUCK."
YEAH, ANYTHING BUT "EXCELLENT LUCK" IS UNTHINKABLE!
WAKU (EXCITED)
OF COURSE IT'S "EXCELLENT LUCK," RIGHT?
WAKU

"HALF LUCK," IS IT?
ドキッ
DOKI HEARTBEAT
!?
WHITE SHIRTS!
WE MEET AGAIN, YOU GRAY-SCHOOL MICE.
YOU FOLLOWED US HERE, DIDN'T YOU!?
ARE YOU GUYS STALK-ERS!?
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK...
LET'S DRAW FORTUNES TOO, ICHIMIYA-KUN.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO START ANYTHING?
I WANT TO SHOW THIS HALF-LUCKY, HALF-ASSED ARMY CORPS JUST HOW AMAZING YOU ARE, ICHIMIYA-KUN.
DON'T TALK LIKE I REPRE-SENT THE "HALF-ASSED."

OOOH, SO IT'S THE LEADER GOING FIRST?
OH, VERY WELL.
NOW, GO AHEAD, ICHIMIYA-KUN.
BILL: 1,000 YEN

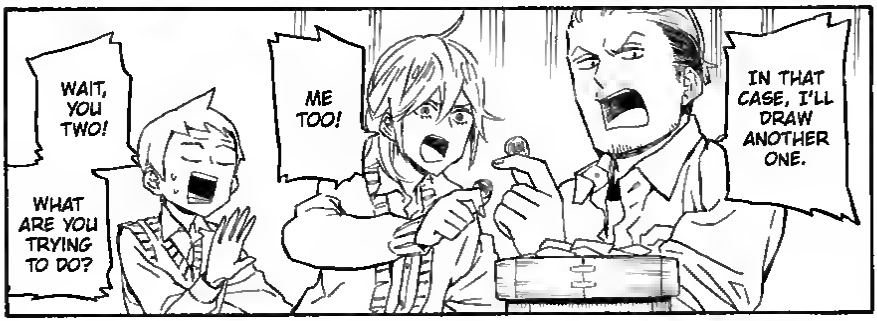
THAT'S BECAUSE ...
ICHIMIYA-KUN'S DRAWING FORTUNES FOR US AS WELL.

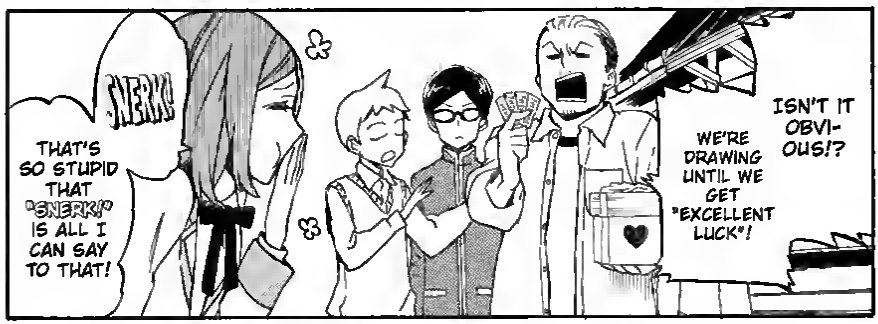

...IS BELOVED BY THE GODS.
...ICHI-MIYA-KUN...
大吉
Excellent Luck
LOVE

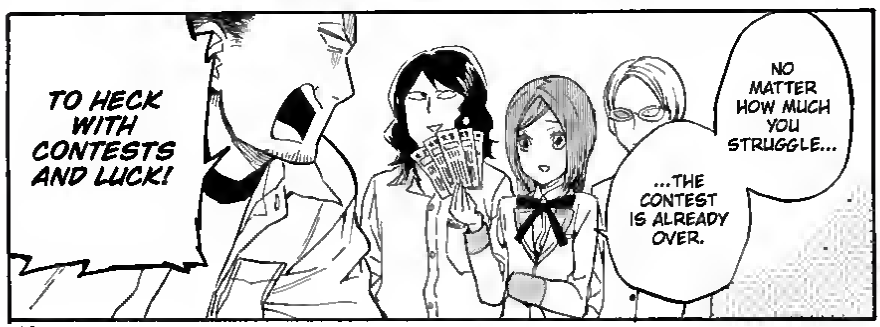

...BUT THEY'VE LOST SIGHT OF THE POINT OF FORTUNES.
SURE, IT'S AMAZING...
THEY'RE ALL "EXCELLENT LUCK"!?
WHAAT!?
AMAZ-ING!!

I'LL ESCAPE BEFORE I GET DRAGGED INTO IT.
WHY, YOU!
YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE SAYING THAT TO, DON'T YOU!?
HE'S NOT LIKE YOU GUYS' HALF-LUCKY HALF-MAN!

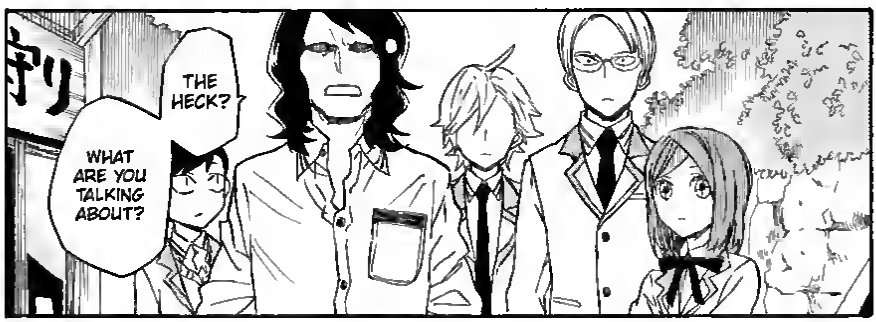
BANNER: LOVE AND MARRIAGE AMULETS

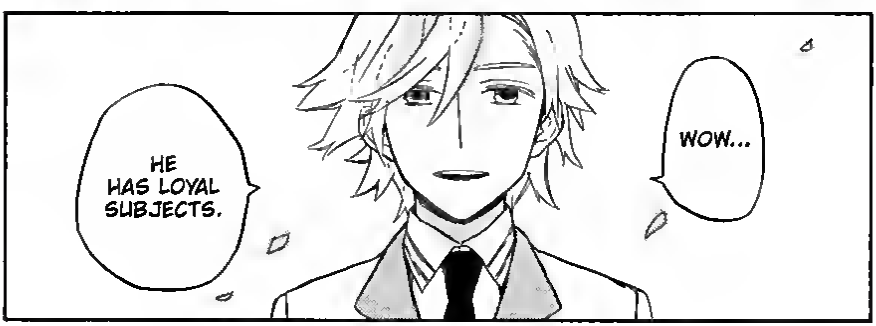


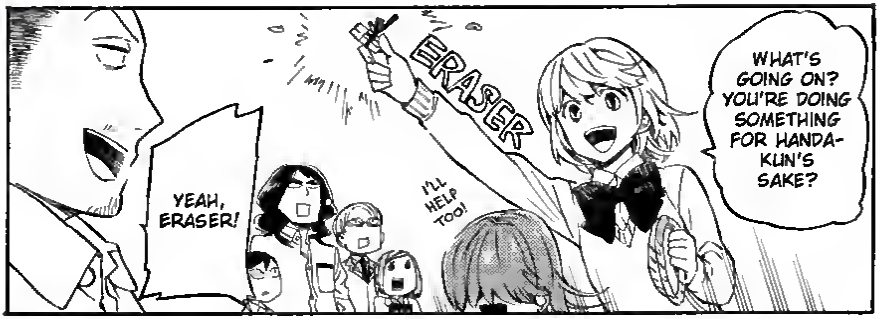




IF HANDA-SAN GETS LOOKED DOWN ON FOR "HALF LUCK"...
...THEN WE'LL JUST OFFER UP "EXCEL-LENT LUCK"!


THE HECK?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

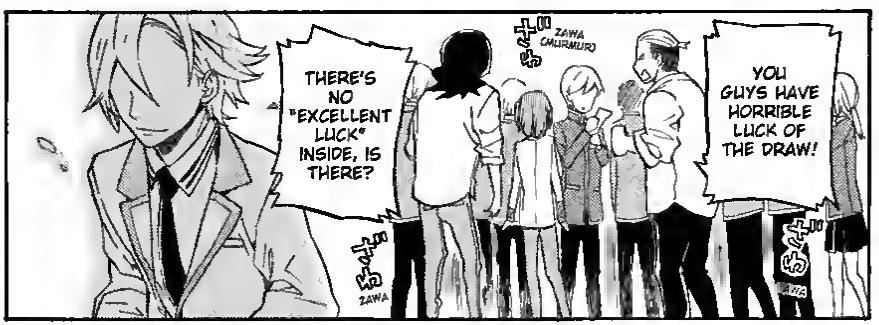

WOW...
HE HAS LOYAL SUBJECTS.

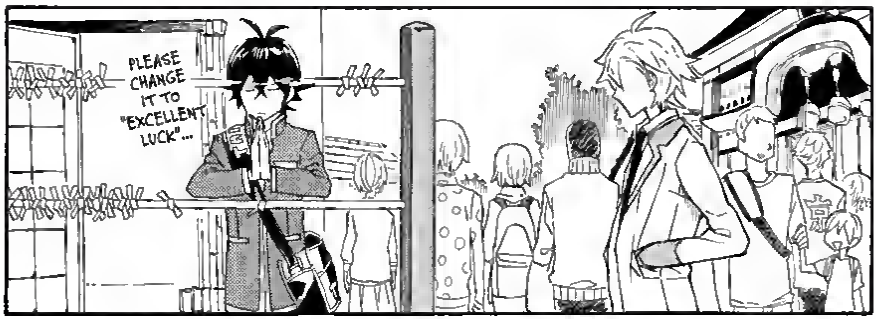


I DREW "HALF LUCK" TOO.
DOES THIS MEAN WE'RE TWINS OF FATE?
I'M NOT NTERESTED IN OMANCE, BUT IRE, IF IT'LL ET HANDA RUNNING.
EVEN YOU GUYS TOO!

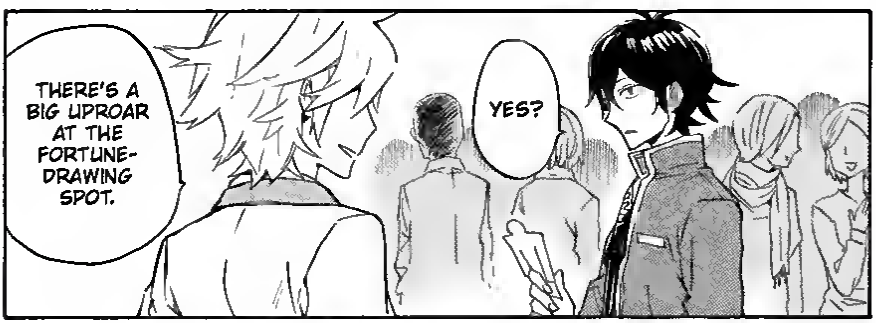
SHIRT: HIGASHINO / FORTUNE, HALF LUCK

TWO HUNDRED YEN, HUH? WELL, I'LL MANAGE IT SOMEHOW.
LEAVE THE FORTUNE-TELLING TO ME!!
THE GRAY-SCHOOLERS HAVE COME OUT IN DROVES!
WE DOING DIS?

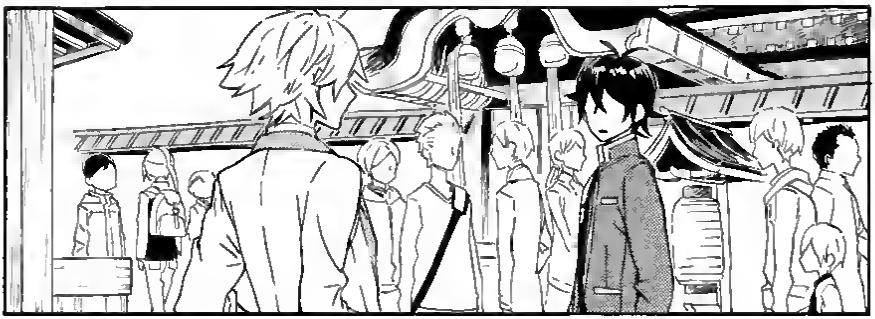


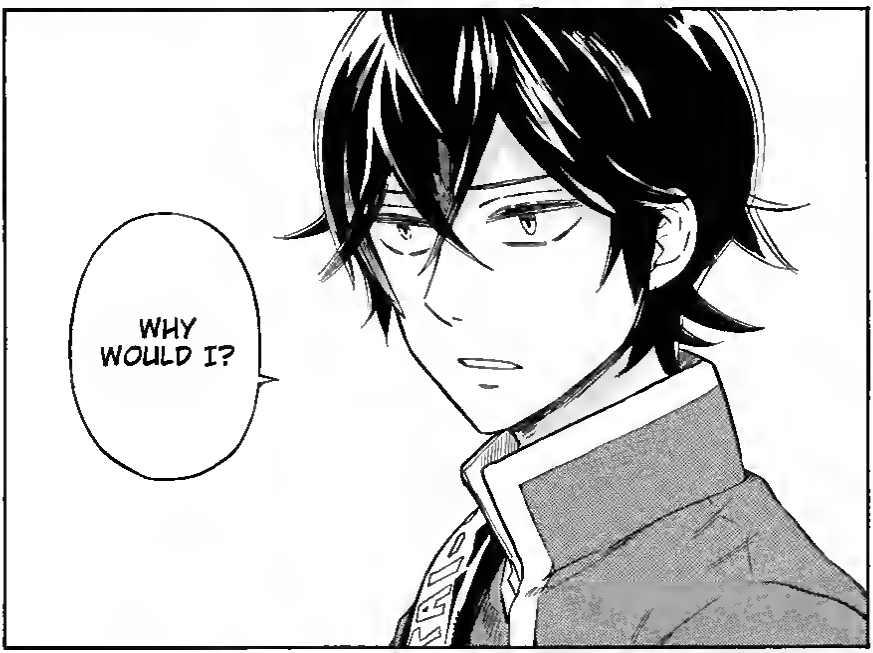

PLEASE CHANGE IT TO "EXCELLENT LUCK"...

HANDA-KUN.
...TO AVERT EVIL...
NEXT, I'LL WRITE MY WORRY ON THIS DOLL AND DISSOLVE IT IN WATER...


THERE'S A BIG UPROAR AT THE FORTUNE-DRAWING SPOT.
YES?

DON'T YOU NEED TO GO HELP MEDIATE?




WHY WOULD I?

IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
ERASE

WHO WAS THAT GUY?
NOW I SEE.
WHILE SO BELOVED BY YOUR SUBJECTS, YOU REFUSE...
...TO FULFILL YOUR DUTY TO THEM... HUH?
I THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND MY SUFFERING...
...BUT YOU'RE A DISGRACEFUL KING.

ALL FOR ONE!
THAT'S HANDA'S POWER!
じゃ
JAN (TA-DAH)
大吉
Excellent Luck
L♡VE
ん
ALL RIGHT! WE GOT ONE "EXCELLENT LUCK"!
JISHU SHRINE
地主の神社
THEY'RE ALREADY GONE.
WE'RE OUT OF TIME TOO.
SEE THAT, WHITE SHIRTS?
HUH?
SERIOUSLY, WHAT KIND OF LUCK OF THE DRAW IS THAT!?
IT'S BECAUSE THAT GUY DREW FIVE OF THEM.
PASAA (FLUTTER)
BESIDES, ONLY ONE "EXCELLENT LUCK" AFTER DRAWING ALL THESE...
HUH? WHERE'S HANDA-SAN?
IT'S JUST THE FIRST DAY, BUT I'M EXHAUSTED...
ASAHI ICHIMIYA WILL TAKE CAREFUL HANDLING.

SAYS THE GUY WITH CANDY STUCK TO HIM.
THIS PROVES THAT SEI HANDA'S JUST A BUNCH OF RUMORS AND NOTHING ELSE.
THAT'S SO CLOYING.
IT MAKES ME WANT TO PLUCK OUT ALL YOUR HAIR.
IT'D STARTED FEELING LIKE AN ACCES-SORY!
HUH!? I FORGOT I STILL HAD THAT STUCK IN MY HAIR!
I RESPECT YOU SO MUCH THAT I'D GLADLY DIE FOR YOU.
...HE'S CLEARLY NO MATCH FOR YOU, ICHIMIYA-KUN.
WELL, WHATEVER KIND OF PERSON SEI HANDA MAY BE...
NO, IT'S TRUE!
YOU GUYS TRULY ARE GOOD SUBJECTS.
HEH-HEH-HEH. OH STOP, YOU MAKE ME BLUSH WITH SUCH PRAISE.

EH?
YOU MEAN TO GRAY-SCHOOL?
BUT...
...I GUESS THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO EXPAND MY DOMINION.
WOULDN'T IT BE MORE FUN WITH MORE CITIZENS?
WON'T YOU GUYS...
...BE PROUD TO HAVE ME BE HONORED BY SO MANY PEOPLE?
BUT WE GET ALONG LIKE CATS AND DOGS WITH THEM.
IT'S NOT DISSOLVING ...
I WANT FRIENDS.
AND BESIDES, A DESPOT DESERVES TO BE OVER-THROWN.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT CHAPTER OF HANDA-KUN!

COMMON HONORIFICS

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls, also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

-sensei: A Japanese term of respect commonly used for teachers, but can also refer to doctors, writers, and artists.

Calligraphy: Japanese calligraphy has a long history and tradition, with roots stemming from ancient China. One of the traditions carried over was the Chinese expression of the "Four Treasures," which refers to the brush, ink, paper, and inkstone used in calligraphy. Traditionally, an inkstick—solidified ink—is ground against an inkstone filled with water in order to produce ink with which to write. This time-consuming process helped to teach patience, which is important in the art of calligraphy. However, modern advances have developed a bottled liquid ink, commonly used by beginners and within the Japanese school system.

PAGE 9

"born after the Cold War": Tsukkun actually said "born in the Heisei era," which started in January 1989 after the death of Emperor Hirohito.

PAGE 10

"You asking for a licking, punk!?": The Japanese phrase Jaumoto said is literally "Don't lick me!" which, in context, means "Don't mess with me!"

PAGE 14

Their eighteenth spot: The large temple shown is Otyomizudera, one of the most famous and popular historical sites in Otyata. Jishu Shrine, which the gang visits on the next page, is on the grounds of Otyomizudera, and is a popular place for love and matchmaking fortunes.

PAGE 16

Fortunes: Here's the order of luck on the *omikuji* (paper fortunes) the characters draw at mentran, from best to worst:
Excellent Luck (*daikichi*), Good Luck (*kichi*), Medium Luck (*chuukichi*), Half Luck (*hankichi*), Uncertain Luck (*suekichi*), and Terrible Luck (*daikyou*).
There are two reasons Honda doesn't want to show his fortune: 1) it's not very good, and 2) the kanji for "hall" (*hon*) is also in his name!

Nanda-kun

Chapter 21

Satsuki Yoshino

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